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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/135,238	08/17/1998	GARRY P. NOLAN	A-65635-1/DJ	9052

24353 7590 05/30/2003

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EXAMINER

SHUKLA, RAM R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2003

34

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/135,238

Applicant(s)

NOLAN ET AL.

Examiner

Ram R. Shukla

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1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 58,59,61-65 and 67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 67 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 58,59 and 61-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 1998 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment and response filed 3-12-03 have been entered.
2. Claims 60 and 66 have been cancelled.
3. Claims 58, 59, 61-65 and 67 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 58, 59 and 61-63 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention for reasons of record set forth in the previous office action of 11-6-02.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3-12-03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is noted that the rejection has been withdrawn against claims 64, 65, and 67 that are drawn to antibody that binds to SEQ ID NO 2. However, rejection of claims 58, 59, and 61-63 is maintained because they recite any polypeptide and an antibody that specifically binds to a protein, which has 90% sequence identity to a SEQ ID NO 2. Applicants' arguments that the claimed invention meets the written description and is similar to that of example 16 of the Written Description Guidelines is erroneous since the cited example does not describe any percent homology. The specification does not describe the structure or identifying characteristics of any polypeptide that binds to SEQ ID NO 2 or any antibody that binds specifically to a protein, which has 90% sequence identity to a

SEQ ID NO 2. Applicants' arguments discussed on page 5-6 are not persuasive because the description in the specification is for TOSO protein and its characteristics and not for the TOSO binding protein. Additionally, regarding the discussion of the 90 kDa protein, it is noted that the specification does not describe what is the amino acid structure of the protein and 90 kDa molecular weight and interaction does not distinguish it from any other protein or from any other protein that interacts with TOSO.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 58-59, 61-64 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for an antibody that binds to the TOSO protein of SEQ ID NO 2 or an antibody the is directed against the extracellular domain or cytoplasmic domains of SEQ ID NO 2, does not reasonably provide enablement for any protein that binds to TOSO of SEQ ID NO 2 or to a TOSO protein that has 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO 2 for reasons of record set forth in the previous office action of 11-6-02. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3-12-03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is noted that applicants have not provided any new evidence or arguments except for reiterating the BS3-cross linking discussion in response to the written description rejection; however, these arguments are not persuasive as

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discussed in the written description rejection (see paragraph on written description rejection above). Regarding claims 61-63, it is noted that these claims are dependent on claim 58, therefore they encompass all the limitations of claim 58 and remain rejected for reasons applicable to claim 58.

8. 102 (e) rejection has been withdrawn in view of the 1.131 declaration by Y. Hitoshi.

9. Claim 67 is free of the prior art of record.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

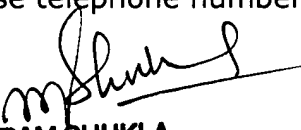
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram R. Shukla whose telephone number is (703) 305-1677. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached on (703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242. The after-final fax number is (703) 87209307. Any inquiry of a general nature, formal

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matters or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the William Phillips whose telephone number is (703) 305-3413.


RAM SHUKLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Ram R. Shukla, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1632